

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
COMMISSION ON MINORITIES IN THE JUDICIARY (COM)
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, May 09, 2013
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Arizona State Courts Building – Room 345A, Phoenix, Arizona

Present: Mike Baumstark, Paul Bennett, Frankie Jones, Roxana Matiella, Judge Roxanne Song Ong, John Vivian.

Telephonically: Diandra Benally, Judge Leslie Miller, Kendall Rhyne, Judge Alma Vildosola.

Absent/Excused: Maria Avilez, Mitchell Kalauli, Niccole King, Bob Kirk, Judge Maurice Portley, Dan Slayton, Penny Willrich, Marian Zapata-Rossa.

Presenters/Guests: Nima Sadeghian (Iranian American Bar Association).

Staff: Susan Pickard (Court Services Division, AOC), Kym Lopez (Court Services Division, AOC).

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Without a quorum present, the May 9, 2013 meeting of the Commission on Minorities (COM) was called to order by Judge Roxanne Song Ong, Chair. Member and staff introductions were made around the room followed by introduction from those participating on the phone.

2. Member Status

Judge Song Ong has been re-appointed Chair for one more year. Judge Maurice Portley has been appointed as Vice Chair. Members Diandra Benally and Kendall Rhyne have been re-appointed for an additional three-year term. New member Judge Gilberto Figueroa has been appointed for a three-year term. After six years of service, Judge Leslie Miller will be departing and after nine years of service, Niccole King is retiring from the Commission. Judge Song Ong thanked Judge Miller and Ms. King for their service.

3. Reassignment of Staff

After an absence of a year to participate on the e-Filing Project, Susan Pickard has returned as staff for the Commission on Minorities in the Judiciary. Judge Song Ong praised Ms. Pickard for her dedicated service and welcomed her back to the Commission.

4. Minority Bar Convention

The Minority Bar Convention workshop was held April 4-5, 2013. The Commission collaborated in offering *The Future of Diversity on the Bench* and *Pathways and Obstacles to*

the Judiciary sessions. The workshop received very high marks based on the evaluations received from the individuals who attended each session.

5. Fifth Arizona Statewide Report Card

A workgroup has been developed to address the fifth Arizona Statewide Report Card. Workgroup members include: Judge Maria Avilez, Chair; David Redpath; Kimberly Egan, Touchstone Behavioral Health; Roxana Matiella; and John Vivian. Work will commence in late May or early June.

6. Arizona Judicial Independence Project

The Arizona Judicial Independence Project was held in on April 26, 2013. The keynote speaker was Chief Justice Berch and the focus of the workshop was on advocating for the merit selection of judges. There was great representation from COM members as panelists, presenters and attendees.

7. Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes of the January 31, 2013 meeting were not presented for approval as a quorum of members was not present.

BUSINESS ITEMS/POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

1. Iranian American Bar Association

Nima Sadegihan, a second year law student and Student Bar President, introduced members to the Iranian American Bar Association. The association holds networking events, publishes key articles, conducts outreach to lawyers across the country, reports on important issues, represents the community, and provides \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students. The main focus of the association is to serve the Iranian-American community by promoting diversity and connections with sister bars. As an example of their work, in August, they drafted a proposal to The Office of Foreign Asset Controls to lift sanctions for humanitarian purposes in response to the earthquake in Iran. They are currently working on a community outreach project called, "Know Your Rights". For further information, members can contact phoenix@iaba.us or www.iaba.us.

Members commended Mr. Sadegihan on his presentation and his aspiration to advance the Iranian American Bar Association and legal assistance for the community. Mr. Baumstark suggested that the Bar consider establishing an affiliation with the State Bar Association of Arizona.

2. Strategic Agenda Planning

Susan Pickard led members in finalizing COM's input regarding the strategic agenda to be submitted for consideration to the Arizona Judicial Council. Ms. Pickard reviewed the goals

of the Arizona Judicial Branch and the 2012-2014 COM goals along with the 2009 proposed COM goals. Discussion ensued. Member ideas included:

- Educate K-12 on diversity.
- Educate ethnic groups and new immigrant populations on protective orders and automobile insurance requirements.
- Develop educational materials for families who are faced with the arrest of a family member. Messages could be delivered by someone other than the court system to help remove barriers to the court system.
- Educating the public – juvenile court procedures and processes/system accountability. Note: Pima is currently working on a project called the Disproportionate Minority Contact Intervention Project. This project could be duplicated in other counties.
- Collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Services Division to provide juvenile justice reform presentations of the Arizona Youth Assessment System (AzYAS) risk assessment tool which helps provide services to youth based on their risk to reoffend. Mike Baumstark offered to pursue the sharing of this tool.
- Promote judicial officer and law student activity in the classroom.
- Collaborate with state, tribal, and federal courts regarding hearings for minor traffic issues (on-Nation hearings).
- Education for employees – produce another cultural awareness training and advocate for delivery to judges. Include local Native American cultures with topics on how to work with tribal members and tribal courts.
- Education for students – Explore ways to connect the bench with law school students. Explore Commission/student ‘meet and greets’ with judges and practicing attorneys. Present online mixers and/or a panel discussion about the path to the bench or a forum discussion with several sister bars to network. It was noted that professors should be included.

Action Item: Due to the time schedule, the consensus was for staff to work with the Chair to narrow proposed goals/initiatives and to submit them to the AJC workgroup. The goals/initiatives as submitted will be presented to the membership for ratification during the July meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Next Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2013.

2. Good of the Order/Call to the Public

The Chair made a call to the public; there was none.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 p.m.